

THE STORY OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
IN PAINTING AND IN PROSE



SANTE GRAZIANI • ARTHUR RYAN • MINNIE R. DWIGHT
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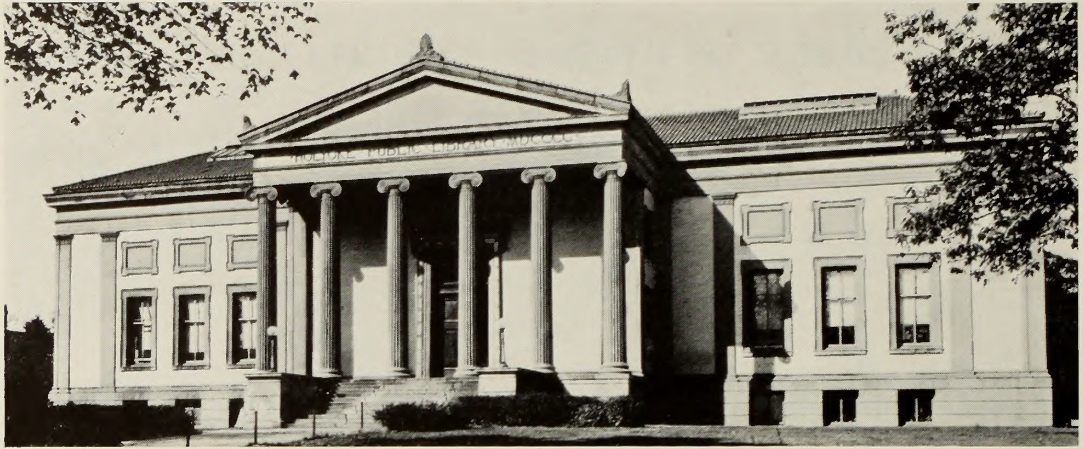
MURAL PAINTINGS

BY SANTE GRAZIANI

*attained by the bequest of the
late Joseph Allen Skinner to
the Holyoke Public Library*

INTERPRETIVE ESSAYS

*by Arthur Ryan
Minnie R. Dwight
Wyatt E. Harper
Edward P. Bagg, M.D.*



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FOREWORD

In the history of mankind, there are a few activities that although interrelated with geographic, social, economic, political, and other conditions, are constantly taking form in one way or another. Included among these activities are such things as the playing of music, telling stories, and the painting of pictures.

Many times pictures have been painted not as separate portable units, but directly on the walls of buildings. For this reason, they are known as murals. They are of the wall and painted with respect for its character.

In prehistoric times men drew pictures on cave walls—some say for magical notions to aid their struggle for survival, others believe the cavemen used pictures to record their trophies. Renaissance artists painted elaborately designed murals on the walls of churches to illustrate Bible texts from the Old and the New Testaments. In our own century, murals of many kinds have been painted for a variety of purposes with different materials and directed to many different sorts of audiences.

My murals in the Holyoke Public Library were painted to commemorate some of the history and activity of men in general and Holyoke in particular. The materials are pigments and casein on canvas which is glued to the wall. The murals were painted for the people of Holyoke, the young and the old, students and teachers alike, and all of the other persons who come to the Library wishing to look at them. It is very likely that they will have different meanings for different people as with other works of art.

The murals would not have been possible without the foresighted generosity of Mr. Joseph A. Skinner. Nor would they have taken their place without the great interest, encouragement, and help of Dr. Edward P. Bagg. I am also grateful to the other members of the Trustees of the Skinner Fund, Miss Marion Hayes, and Mr. William Skinner II, for their good suggestions and frequent trips to New Haven and Worcester to see the designs in progress. Librarian Gilbert C. Rich has also been very helpful in research.

I will always be indebted to several patient teachers for showing me how to make things and why. At the top of this list must stand the name of Mr. Lewis E. York, under whom I studied. His depth of technical knowledge and avoidance of doctrinaire philosophies has allowed me the freedom to paint what and how I wish.

I do not expect all who see my murals to like them. Some will wish they had gone more in this direction—or that. Perhaps others will say they have gone too far in this or that direction! But I am satisfied because I know that most people will consider the Library a more meaningful place than before the murals were painted. And this matters a great deal to me.

SANTE GRAZIANI

Worcester, Massachusetts



THE STORY OF HOLYOKE MASSACHUSETTS IN PAINTING AND IN PROSE

The lobby of the Holyoke Public Library today is an abode of light and color instead of a drab cavern lined with terracotta red, thanks to the bequest of Joseph Allen Skinner who left a fund to the Library for the purchase of works of art. As trustees he named his son William Skinner II, the head of the Department of Art and Archeology at Mt. Holyoke College and the President of the Library.

The trustees decided to apply the income of this fund to the decoration of the lobby because the lack of exhibition space precluded the purchase of paintings and other works of art. After some search, they chose Sante Graziani, a youthful artist who was born in Cleveland, graduated from the Cleveland School of Art and currently held a teaching position on the faculty of the School of Fine Arts at Yale University. Today he directs the Art Museum School at Worcester, Massachusetts. The mural decoration that he had painted for the Springfield Museum of Art convinced the trustees that he was capable of executing a similar commission for Holyoke. Mr. Graziani from the first was interested, and entered into the project with enthusiasm. The trustees have been more than delighted with his spirit and his ability and workmanship. They themselves took pleasure in cooperating by offering suggestions and criticisms whenever they were consulted. The entire effort in itself has been an education for all concerned not only in the history of Holyoke, but also of mural decoration that has reflected human culture from the earliest times.

Directors of the Library believe that something well worthwhile has been accomplished for students of art, history and other branches of human endeavor. Furthermore they are convinced that the Holyoke Public Library has been enriched by these notable wall paintings that should, as time goes on, attract visitors from far and near. Someday when the artist has achieved his ultimate reputation, Holyoke may well be a mecca for the devotees of mural decoration.

The Directors also wish to record herewith their great appreciation of the efforts of the artist and of the authors of the essays that elaborate the history of Holyoke in the various fields that Mr. Graziani has treated allegorically with his brush.



PIONEERS

EAST WALL MURALS

The east wall of the lobby was divided by the architect James A. Clough into three spaces. The main panel measuring 12' x 8' is flanked by two more that are only 5½' wide. There in the center the main theme, water power, is memorialized,—the source that gives life to the industries that made present-day Holyoke possible. The great dam of matched granite blocks that threw a thousand-foot barrier across the "Long River" was finished in January 1900. Even since the painting was put in place it has become historic because of the fact that the stone abutment that is a notable component of the artist's design was replaced in 1952 by the headworks of the splendid new power plant. It exists now only in reproduction. The two previous wooden dams, of course, are not shown. The first was swept "to hell by way of Willimansett" when the coffer dams were removed back in 1849, but the second and successful structure still stands a rod or two up river.

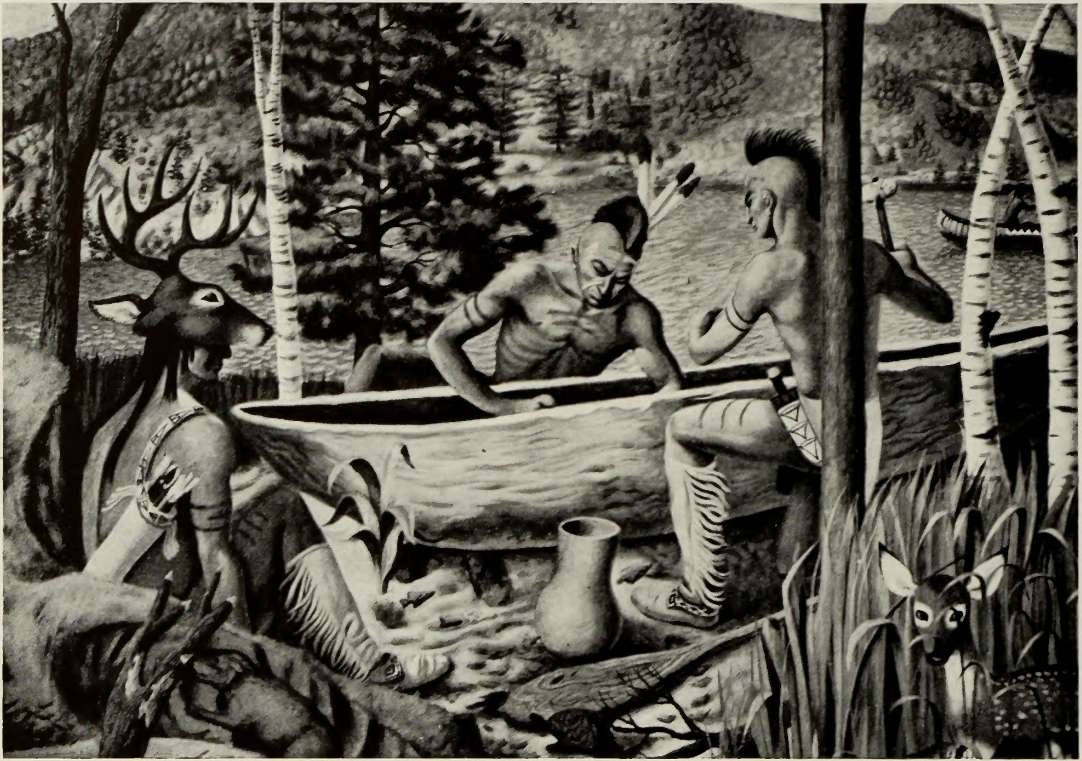
The figure of George Ewing is given the central position in recognition of his major role in persuading the reluctant farmers of the vicinity to sell their pasture land for building purposes. At his elbow stands Joseph C. Parsons, Holyoke's first papermaker, whose mills helped to win the world-renowned title the "Paper City." Our familiar mountains furnish an attractive back-



drop, but the artist relied on poetic license to reverse Mt. Holyoke in order to show the unique funicular railway that now stands in a Massachusetts State Reservation, thanks to another gift of our patron, Joseph A. Skinner. Costumes are authentic for the period as is Holyoke's first newspaper, the "Hampden Freeman," in the newsboy's hands. The chart held by the workman presents the original plan for the city's canal system.

The left-hand panel suggests the cultural aspects of Holyoke. Professor William Churchill Hammond may be identified at the organ console representing, along with the cellist, music both classical and sacred. The students and the Library building in the background emphasize literary resources, while the stuffed figures suggest the workings of the Museum of Natural History. The youth sketching stands for the fine arts.

To the right are shown suggestive details of papermaking, Holyoke's major industry, including machinery and operatives. Regrettably, there was insufficient wall-space to do justice to the many other important industries that have diversified Holyoke's manufacturing so effectually, such as satin weaving, that brought these murals within the realm of possibility, the making of wire, pumps, boilers, woolens, and most recently, of plastics and electrical appliances.



AMERINDS OF THE PIONEER VALLEY WEST WALL MURALS

Early in the 17th century when Captains Rowland Thomas and Elizur Holyoke were exploring the territory hereabouts on opposite sides of the Connecticut River, various tribes of American Indians still came to the Great Falls in search of shad to smoke for winter use and clay for the replenishment of pottery.

The entire west wall of the lobby was cleared of obstructing light fixtures to enable artist Graziani to place thereon a large mural painting re-creating the scenes that must have been commonplace in the familiar surroundings that 20th century Holyokers are wont to call their own.

This splendid mural is painted in a lower key but in perfect harmony. The figures are done without fore-shortening and in greater detail since closer inspection is possible. There is a dignity and self-assurance about these aborigines that gives them life. Obviously they have not been debased by contact with the pale faces and their firewater, nor infuriated by the loss of

their hunting grounds. Without doubt however, finicky 20th centurians would prefer to stand to windward of them and their campsite.

Algonquin Indians roamed the Atlantic seaboard from the Saguenay river south as far as the Carolinas. Many tribes such as the local Pequots were numbered in this group. They were a people given more to fishing and agricultural pursuits than to war-like activities. From their language English has been enriched by a large number of words such as chipmunk, caribou, caucus, hickory, moose, mugwump and others. The more aggressive Iroquois, known as the Five Nations of central New York formed an inclusion like the yolk in an egg. They too consisted of many tribes, from the Mohawks of the North to the Cherokees in the South and they also have given us a number of words, geographical names like Niagara, Ontario and Erie. But their greatest contribution to the history of mankind was the forerunner of the United Nations. Under the guidance of Hiawatha the Five Nations functioned successfully for two hundred years, longer perhaps than our Sixty Nations may act in unison in the modern era,—who can say?

The Indians of this painting might have been Pequots, Mohegans, Chipewas, or Wappingers all of whom were Algonquins from nearby regions, but it is more likely that they would be Nipmucks or fresh-water people known to the colonists as the River Indians. There were a number of divisions of Nipmucks, the Squakheags of Northfield, Pocumtucks further south around Deerfield, the Norwottucks in and about Northampton, and the Tunxis and Woronoaks who lived along the Westfield river. The Quabogs must be considered, too, for they could have come from reaches of the Chicopee river.

The mural was based upon careful research by a number of individuals, for the most part the artist, in order to show authentic features for the reliable information of students young and old who should be interested in details of the earlier life of Pioneer Valley. For example, the dugout that is under construction on the left was used more in local waters than the birch bark canoe commonly associated with Indians. On the right, again, the shelter most often seen in New England was a dome-shaped structure with sheets of bark secured to saplings, in contrast to the conical tepees of the plains, though smoke escaped through a vent in the top in both instances.

The Indian brave with the drawn bow is about to launch an arrow heavenward. He might be aiming at food for supper, but the act also may hold religious significance. It was believed that an arrow shot skyward served as a tribute to the Great Spirit, or perhaps a petition, possibly a bribe.

The artist, relying on poetic license, has painted shad which of course

run only in May and June, and pumpkins and maize that ripen only in the fall, because both were important sources of food to the Indians. We are indebted to the interest of William S. Fowler, now curator of the Attleboro Museum, for the triangular stone hoe similar to the one that he has in his collection. Beaver, deer, wild turkey and the grouse likewise are included for purposes of demonstration although their timid natures doubtless would prevent their presence in an Indian camp when the savages were in residence. The now extinct passenger pigeons that darken the connecting strip of sky in the center should not be overlooked. They proved, alas, too succulent to the palates of our heedless forebears to survive. They were netted by the thousands for marketing to ultimate extinction.

Students and others who may be interested to read for themselves the details of this primitive Indian culture, will find many books listed in the Library's catalogues.

The most reliable source of the types of canoe and hut were prints from the original copper plates engraved by French and English artists who saw these so-called savages with their own eyes. Unfortunately we have been less successful in tracing contemporary portraits of Captains Thomas and Holyoke for whom our mountains were named. None exists in the collections of Harvard College or the historical societies in Boston, Salem, Springfield or Hartford. These figures however, thanks to the skill of the artist, are lively and convincing. Their crews must have looked much as they were painted,—rough, ready, and raucous.

Edward P. Bagg, M.D.

*President of the Holyoke Public Library,
and Skinner Fund Trustee.*

Holyoke, Massachusetts,
October 30, 1954.



RELIGION ARTHUR RYAN

It is a sound basic thought that any American community with a history of growth and progress comparable to Holyoke's must have had the benefit of a great line of leaders in the field of religion. And Holyoke does not provide the exception to prove the rule. It has been blessed in large degree with forceful leadership from the first emergence to independent standing in the later years of the 18th century, when, by Legislative act, a separate parish, known in the records as the Third, or North Parish of West Springfield, but more popularly known as Ireland Parish, was set off to serve the religious needs of what is now the City of Holyoke.

That very first era of the new "parish" produced its great figure, Reverend Thomas Rand, who established the First Baptist church and led in the construction of the first church structure devoted wholly to the religious needs of the community. Reverend Mr. Rand was a truly versatile, and

human, being. A great preacher, a fine teacher, a progressive farmer, an artist of no mean merit, a leader in the community civic efforts, he was an outstanding figure for two generations or more. In an era in which denominational lines were drawn sharply, his church was for a full generation the meeting place for both Baptists and Congregationalists, the latter using the structure one Sunday in every four. That in itself would indicate the broad measure of Rev. Mr. Rand's Christian beliefs.

The first half of the nineteenth century brought the establishment of many Protestant church groups and the records show generally short pastorates. The building of the dam to harness the great wealth-producing powers of the white waters moving swiftly past the Great Bend in the river brought an influx of settlers. The population more than doubled every decade for three successive decades and the town mushroomed to city size. Then indeed did the need for varied and strong religious leadership provide a challenge that was met in all groups. The 1850's and 1860's saw the organization of church bodies and the building of churches in rapid succession. One might hesitate to attempt to call any roll of the leaders in that and the following eras lest some that deserve honorable mention might be missed. But here is a mighty nucleus, excluding the present splendid corps of servants of the Lord.

In the older established Protestant organizations, beginning with the first organized body, the First Congregational, there must be mention of the long and strong leadership of Rev. George W. Winch (1888-1907); Rev. Henry O. Hannum (1907-1918) and Rev. Charles N. Thorp (1919-1928). The Second Congregational church, established in 1848, had such tremendous growth that by the end of the century it stood at the top of the list of Congregational churches in all New England in membership and enthusiasm. Certainly strong leadership can claim credit for the record there. Where else might one hope to find anything to match the records in terms of length and strength of service, made by Rev. Dr. John L. R. Trask (1867-1882); Rev. Dr. Edward A. Reed (1886-1914); Rev. Dr. Robert Russell Wicks (1914-1928) who became Dean of the Chapel at Princeton University; and Rev. Dr. Albert J. Penner (1939-1949), who went on to the Broadway Tabernacle in New York City.

Grace Congregational church, established as a down-town mission of the Second Congregational church just about the time Holyoke entered cityhood, and which took on church dignity in the last decade of the past century, contributes to this honor page the figure of Rev. Dr. Edwin B. Robinson, for

more than half a century a great figure in a far wider field than Holyoke among militant Christian leaders.

The First Baptist church probably has the distinction of sending more of its members into the foreign missionary field than any other church body in the Holyoke community. Seven are so listed. The younger Second Baptist church matched through the years the record for growth and leadership established by the Second Congregational. The pastorates of Rev. R. J. Adams (1869-1886), Rev. Dr. J. W. T. Boothe (1890-1898) and Rev. Dr. John S. Lyon (1901-1914) were especially fruitful. Dr. Lyon carved for himself a special niche in Holyoke religious and civic service.

St. Paul's Episcopal church, established in the midst of the Civil War, has produced its full share of religious and civic leaders, with Rev. Franklin Knight, pastor for twenty-six years (1911-1937), and still living in retirement, standing forth as a great churchman and a great citizen.

Nor could any roll-call of great church leaders in Holyoke be considered at all adequate that did not carry the name of Rev. August Brunn, of the Evangelical Lutheran church, who became its first pastor in 1888 and continued, great in power and influence, for thirty-four years.

The latest comer to the church ranks in Holyoke—the Catholic—was destined to sweep into the leading position in church membership and building development in two generations. First and longest on the list of outstanding preachers and builders in the history of the Catholic churches locally must be placed the name of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. Harkins, who came to Holyoke in 1866 as the third Catholic priest assigned to the community and remained as pastor of St. Jerome's for forty-four years. The Holyoke Community is still well sprinkled with monuments to the genius and energy of that amazing soldier of the Lord, who preached a militant gospel and lived it every day in the week.

There have been many to help carry the Harkins torch during the later years of his life and since his death in 1910. On the list of pastors for the Sacred Heart church, first of the offspring of St. Jerome's, the record of Rev. Dr. Patrick B. Phelan, who became its second pastor in 1880 and carried on in that post for thirty-nine years stands out. Holy Rosary, second of the daughters, furnished one of the great figures of the Springfield diocese, Bishop Thomas D. Beaven.

The churches where the French-speaking Americans provide the bulk of the congregations have had the benefit of strong men who directed their destinies for a long time. The Precious Blood church, established in 1869,

had for its spiritual director for thirty-seven years Rev. Charles Crevier. And the Lady of Perpetual Help church had for its pastor for thirty-four years Rev. Joseph Marchand. Their records for leadership were as strong as their years of service were long.

Holy Cross church, whose Gothic type dome dominates the Highlands section of the community, contributes the name of Rev. Dr. John C. Ivers to any list of great church figures in the community. He was its first pastor and his strong, kindly and scholarly term of service lasted thirty-three years there, to which might well be added nine years more, spent as a curate at St. Jerome's and the Holy Rosary churches.

Long as it is, the list mentioned here does scant justice to the record of accomplishments by the great procession of God-loving men who have served Holyoke so well through the long years. Nor is any effort made here to list and acknowledge the value of the services being done in these days as we move into new ages with new problems capable of solution only by invoking the powers of the spirit to assist the powers of the human mind.

Note: The figures of the mural, of course, are not portraits of individual churchmen. The Calvinistic austerity of the skypilot in the center may suggest Jonathan Edwards, but more probably it is a reflection of the serious concept of spiritual matters that distinguishes modern youth from the generations that were "lost" between wars. They are types of the spiritual leaders of the three principal religious groups in Holyoke. The buildings in the background, however, are authentic and may be identified by reference to contemporary pictures, for example the first Baptist church in the center and St. Jerome's on the left. The details of the paintings have been verified officially by the artist.



CHILD HEALTH

MINNIE R. DWIGHT

Perhaps the gayest colors in the over-door panels are to be seen in the painting that memorializes Child Health in Holyoke. The pyramid of children at play appropriately symbolizes the happiness of well children well served. But the lesson of the central theme is most forcefully depicted in the chart with the scarlet mortality line that falls almost to the vanishing point. A world of happiness is thus indicated since less than twenty children per one thousand die today from all causes in the first year of life, instead of the one hundred fifty and more who succumbed in 1911 when child welfare work as such was organized.

The figure in the white coifed religious habit in the foreground is given prominence, because history reveals the fact that it was Sister Mary of Providence who in 1875 came to Holyoke from Quebec at the request of the Rev. P. J. Harkins to start the first parochial school in Western Massachusetts.

Almost at once she found there were too many orphan children for what was called "The Institute." She turned to Dr. John J. O'Connor, the physi-

cian whose name became a legend in Holyoke, who later also was chosen mayor of this city. As a result, the handsome property at Ingleside was purchased from the partnership of Chandler & Holman. A building was erected according to plans drawn up by the Sisters of Providence, that still stands as a monument to their vision and faith in spite of the fact that the treasury was empty when the building was finished. Thousands of boys and girls have passed through the nobly conceived institutions of Brightside and Mt. St. Vincent during the past seventy years. Many of them have taken high places in the world of affairs, grounded as they were in the foundations of religious life. Today there is building a magnificent modern Brightside to serve the orphaned children of the entire Springfield Diocese.

The figure of the nun also stands for the devoted work of the Holyoke Day Nursery that cares for the children of Holyoke's working mothers weekdays. Food, shelter, play and medical supervision are provided. When surveys showed that many mothers went to their work leaving their little ones untended at home, the call for adequate measures to furnish aid for these neglected children—some of them literally bound,—was spear-headed by the Rev. Daniel Tully who as Chaplain at Brightside learned the story. He helped to form St. Agnes Guild in 1916 under the care of the Sisters of Providence. In 1919 the handsome Newton mansion on Chestnut St. with a large play-yard was purchased. There each weekday may be seen the merry groups of youngsters at play under the watchful eye of Sister Mary Anselm. Atop the lovely hill just south of Brightside the National Mother House of the Providence Order stands as a monument to Sister Mary of Providence, and this great Order pledged to the care of childhood, that initiated child welfare work in this Valley.

The zeal of Dr. Carl Allen brought Holyoke into the front line of attack on tuberculosis which was the topmost cause of death among young people at the beginning of this century. The germ that caused the disease had been isolated and its contagious nature confirmed. What was needed was education to secure public backing for the isolation of active cases to prevent the spread of the contagion, and to provide curative measures.

The Holyoke Tuberculosis Association was formed to assume this social and medical responsibility. Dark and crowded rooms had to go, contaminated milk must be eliminated and sanatoria provided. Meanwhile the medical world was developing new therapies, and early detection was made possible through the Roentgen rays.

In 1907 when Dr. Allen started the campaign against tuberculosis,

there were eighty-seven deaths yearly in Holyoke from that scourge of youth. In 1952 only two died from the disease, and deaths from tuberculous meningitis today are a rarity. The Christmas seals have become a happy method of raising funds locally to combat the Great White Plague.

Three quarters of a century ago the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was established to remedy the neglect that had been the lot of too many children. Not only can the sadness of the child be relieved, but positive lessening achieved of teen-age delinquency and lifetime unhappiness that stems from early insecurity. The Holyoke branch was set up in 1918. Today every effort is exerted to reestablish broken families instead of punishing parents, and placing children in foster homes. This has to be done with trained social technique and by men and women who are devoted to such work. In the cure of causes of neglect whether due to sickness, alcoholism, lack of work, or broken marriages, Holyoke is and has been well served. One added factor in making these results possible is the State law that empowers the S.P.C.C. to take cases to court when other methods fail.

When the first decade of this revolutionary 20th century was passing, social consciousness was rising over the land. John Spargo came to Holyoke to address a meeting sponsored by the Y.W.C.A. He showed with figures that the death rate of babies in Holyoke was one of the worst in the country. Included were the deaths of the little orphans at Brightside, many of them brought there from out of town sick and neglected.

Mrs. Sumner Whitten, then head of the mother's club of the Y.W.C.A., was inspired by the facts to lead a crusade for improvement of conditions in Holyoke. Mr. Spargo had planted the idea that the problem was not a matter of charity but concerned the citizens' government as public health. A survey of the city was undertaken by Mrs. William G. Dwight at Mrs. Whitten's direction. Figures thus brought to light showed that on one short street in Holyoke, more babies died under one year of age than in all of ward seven. So it was possible to stir public interest of mothers who loved their children regardless of status or place of residence.

The first move was to find a pure milk supply. This was not too simple in the absence of laws requiring clean stables, healthy cows, and the pasteurization of milk. Next came the question of distribution. Mrs. Whitten enlisted the active interest of Mayor John J. White and his administration who favored the project as worthy of municipal support. The Holyoke Infant Hygiene Association was formed with Dr. Fred H. Allen as medical

director and the Holyoke Municipal Milk Station was opened in June 1911 on lower Sargeant St. at the corner of Bridge in the section where the infant death rate was highest.

The results of this organized effort for improvement in child health in Holyoke led to state legislation that required pasteurization of all milk sold in Massachusetts. Dairies had to be inspected and herds tested for tuberculosis at frequent intervals.

To meet the requirement that had been enacted as a state law a few years later that all municipally financed projects must be directed by city officials, the Legislature approved an act creating the Child Welfare Commission as a part of Holyoke's official public health service. Supervision of the health of the child was covered from before birth until school age, that is, pre-natal and post-natal, infant and pre-school care was furnished. Preparation and distribution of formulas in iced pails to substations, immunization against smallpox, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, physical examinations and follow-up work in the homes were provided. The little ones thus guarded have numbered two thousand or more per year for the past forty-three years. Fewer and fewer deaths have been recorded in mothers and pre-school children. During these fruitful years the direction has been in the hands of Dr. Allen and Dr. E. P. Bagg, with the assistance of many volunteer physicians and dentists who have given their services regularly and generously. But the work could not have succeeded without the devoted cooperation of many specially trained nurses who have taken personal interest in their assignments.

Holyoke thus, along with the rest of the world, has eliminated that frightful early mortality among infants and children. The milk station, necessary at the start, is no longer needed since ice boxes abound and there are no more devastating epidemics of summer diarrheas. Smallpox is no longer rampant, diphtheria has been eliminated, and tetanus is under control. Safeguards however must not be relaxed.

That is the story that lies behind the rapidly descending scarlet ribbon on the chart in the mural. In reality, it should no longer be termed a record of mortality. It is a veritable life-line.

Holyoke Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts spark a fine spirit among the many boys and girls who begin at age seven as Cubs or Brownies and carry the high principles of scouting into their daily living. The promises they make together for loyalty and service give a brighter basis for all their days.

In 1921 Holyoke Girl Scouts received their charter. A personal friend

of Juliet Low, founder of Girl Scouts in America, came to Holyoke to gather together troops and their leaders. Almost at once a full program of girl scouting was in action. Mrs. John M. James was the first Girl Scout Commissioner and gave wonderful leadership as long as she lived. Through the years the Girl Scout membership has remained around one thousand more or less—not for lack of prospective scouts but for leaders.

The Boy Scout charter was granted in 1926. What a good time they have had between Mt. Tom and Aldrich Lake out under the slopes of Mt. Holyoke. Wonderful terrain lies hereabouts for hiking and the other aspects of scouting. Alumni of the first groups are writing fine records all across the world where wars and sundry vocations have taken them. Usually the Boy Scouts number one thousand, and here too the cry is for more young men to guide the eager lads.

Summer camping programs of both Boy and Girl Scouts, the Y.M.C.A., the Boys' Club, the Tuberculosis Association, the Salvation Army and many of the churches have sent thousands of children away from crowded homes for better health and recreation.

Then too, the boys of Holyoke one thousand strong have had the blessing of the Holyoke Boys' Club since 1892. A new city was growing by leaps and bounds in that era. Holyoke was becoming conscious of its social obligations. There was a special need of something for teen-age boys who had no chance for recreation except with street gangs.

A group of men selected from the several churches headed by Joel S. Webber, took over an old church building on Main St. Tools and machines were installed for craft work, trade classes were set up, and a place provided for reading and playing games.

The late Frederick S. Webber followed his father's leadership and headed the campaign for a new building. Since the fine new home of the Boys' Club was built on Race St., it has drawn large numbers of boys every year. Excellent sport programs have been developed especially in the past decade under Tom Foley who had in fact a boys' club in his own home. Holyoke is grateful to him. All the years since the beginning there have been young men who were eager as leaders to share with the boys the work for cleaner and happier boyhood.

Holyoke has the distinction of being the first city in Massachusetts to move for municipal playgrounds. Mayor Nathan P. Avery gathered a small group of people to this end in 1908. The late Principal John J. Lynch, William J. Howes, Mrs. William G. Dwight, and Mrs. John J. Finn met with

Mr. Avery to prepare legislation to make city playgrounds possible in the State of Massachusetts. A statewide referendum was passed with a sweeping vote in Holyoke. In 1919 they came into being. Also the first public swimming pools in Massachusetts were set up in Holyoke playgrounds in 1925.

A separate account would be needed to do justice to all the good works of the Holyoke School System in behalf of children. In addition to school inspection service by doctors and nurses, special problems like loss of hearing and sight impairment are detected and provided with special treatment. School work has been brought into the homes of handicapped children who were unable to compete with their fellows, and special classes are provided for the backward pupils. Nor should we forget the splendid liaison that is provided between teachers and parents in the Parent-Teachers Association to supplement routine work of the schools for the better progress of Holyoke's future citizens.

The hospitals too have provided expert and devoted care for our children. Standards and facilities are constantly being improved to keep pace with the advancement of knowledge. Likewise the constructive work of the Holyoke Public Library and the Holyoke Museum of Natural History and Art must not be passed over. Librarian Gilbert C. Rich with his able assistants and Curator Marie Schurr with hers, have done much to interest children in reading, music, and the vital problems of conservation of our natural resources.

A better start for children is the best augury for a better world. The heart of such beautiful conceptions has been explored by the Indian poet Tagore thus, "On the seashore of endless worlds, the children meet with shouts and dance. Children have their play on the seashore of the world."

THE STORY OF EDUCATION IN HOLYOKE

WYATT E. HARPER

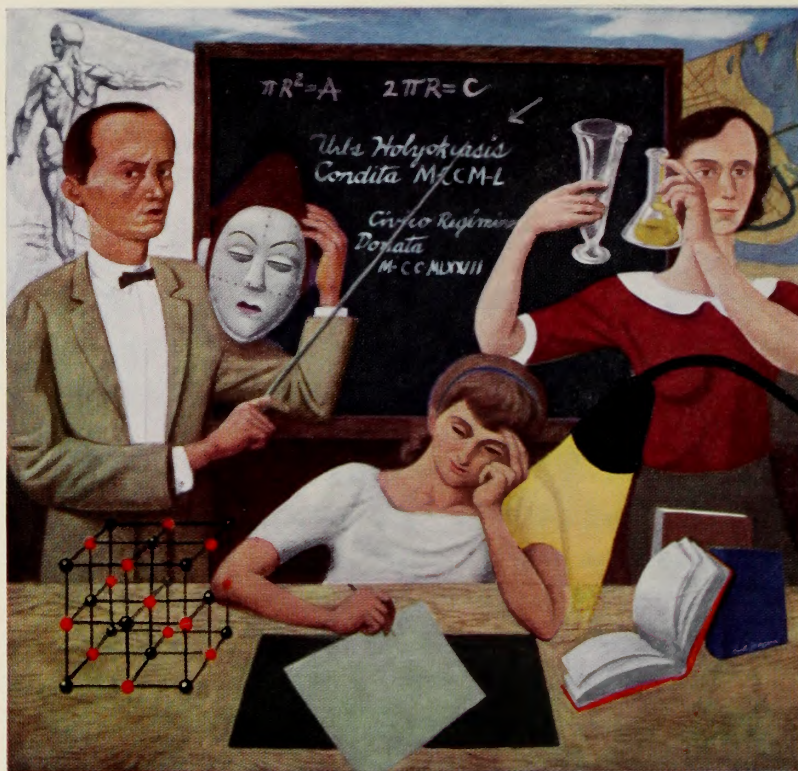
Formal education began in the region that is now Holyoke in 1802 when the first school was opened in Ireland Parish which was a political division of West Springfield centering in the area now called Elmwood. Caleb Humeston was voted a stipend for boarding the teachers, Miss Sally Clapp and Miss Lovina Humeston for the three month term of their teaching. All children and servants were to be sent to school, "to read and learn catechism." Subjects taught were reading, writing, and ciphering. Books in use were limited to, "readers, rhetorics, and the Bible." For each pupil enrolled in school the parent had to supply one fourth cord of wood to keep the "school seasonably warm." Farm boys kept coming to school winter after winter until they were quite grown.

As the population of Ireland Parish increased, other one-room schools were opened. Soon there were seven, spread out according to dispersion of population. Many of these early schools remained standing as landmarks of early Holyoke until near the turn of the century. One was across from Crafts Tavern, one at Depot Hill, another on Homestead Avenue. Two of them were of red brick, one near Whiting Hill, the other on the County Road to Northampton.

Education in these early schools was of a simple nature to fit the needs of a people who tended their farms, kept their homes, and brought up their children within limited horizons. Life in Ireland Parish was simple and direct. Horses, cows, sheep, hay, rye and barley were the concern of livelihood. Enjoyments were of the homely, rustic kind. Independent subsistence was the premise of each farmstead. Education of the times reflected the simplicity of this life.

A Massachusetts school law of 1780 required towns having a hundred and fifty or more families to maintain a grammar school. Ireland Parish created such a school in 1818. For many years this single grammar school sufficed for the whole area.

A most noteworthy educational effort of the early days was Parson Rand's Academy. Here for the modest fee of twenty-five cents a week boys of the region were instructed in the classics and mathematics. The purpose of the school was to prepare for college and the Christian ministry. Girls



were instructed from time to time. Classes were held in the parsonage on Back Street; but around 1830 the school was moved to a building on the County Road near its junction with the road to Westfield.

Parson Rand was the outstanding man of his day in local education. Not only did he conduct his own private academy for twenty-five years, but also taught in the town school as well. Boys who later became outstanding clergymen of the valley learned their Latin and Greek under his tutelage. When Parson Rand retired, William Gamewell took over and changed the name to Gamewell Academy. Rand Academy or Gamewell Academy was not a public high school. In a rudimentary way it was Holyoke's version of the New England Academy which in other New England towns of that period exercised a profound influence upon early American education. The Ireland Parish High School Society was formed in 1840.

At mid-century workers by the thousand came to Ireland Parish to work in the newly constructed mills. Overnight the New England village became an industrial town and within a generation the industrial town became a city. This was the phenomenal growth period which constituted the formative era of the Holyoke educative system.

Records of the Holyoke School Committee which was created at this time show nine school districts and thirteen schools. There were five hundred and thirty-seven scholars and attendance was poor. Great stress was laid upon the quality of teachers. Energy, character, ability in discipline, and aptness to teach were held indispensable qualities in a teacher. Parents were urged to show interest in education by visiting the schools. Successes and failures of various teachers were written up in the town report for all to read.

Holyoke High School was established in 1852 with Stephen Holman as preceptor. Holman was an able man, "who quickened the dull, strengthened the feeble, and restrained the impetuous." School kept for a time in the Gallaudet block on High Street and then moved to the Chapin block at the corner of Race and Dwight. Here was Parsons Hall where graduation exercises were held for many years. In 1862 a new high school was built, the Elm Street School.

The new high school offered two courses leading to diplomas; a thorough course of two years in "English Branches," constituting a practical business preparation, and a four-year course in the classics which prepared for college. College preparation still consisted of the study of Latin, Greek, Mathematics, and French. Instruction in English as a language and literature was not to begin until 1891.

Graduates of the town grammar school were carefully examined as to their fitness to enter the senior school. Tests were given in the chief grammar school subjects, geography, history, grammar, and arithmetic. Sample questions were: "Name the political divisions of South America." "What discoveries were made by John Cabot and Sebastian?" "What is case?" "Decline Who, He, It, Boy." "Divide 10 by $\frac{7}{8}$." Grammar school masters exercised a wide constructive influence upon the people of the community. Outstanding among them down through the years, Hiram Bartlett ("Daddy") Lawrence, John A. Callahan, William E. Judd, and John J. Lynch were to write their impress indelibly in the Holyoke life and spirit.

Enrichment of curriculum appeared in this formative period, to be carried forward by succeeding educators from generation to generation. Two pioneer superintendents contributed powerfully to early Holyoke education, E. S. Kirtland who served during the seventies and brought about the construction of many needed school buildings, and Preston W. Search who stressed the importance of the individual pupil and set up the high professional standards now maintained by Holyoke teachers. Interesting and

useful subjects were added from time to time to make education more vital in the lives of the pupils.

In 1870 a state law became applicable to Holyoke requiring free instruction in industrial or mechanical drawing for persons fifteen years of age, in day or evening schools. At the same time the committee voted that "Music being an important branch of education . . . both music and drawing be taught." Soon the high school basement was converted for use as a Chemistry laboratory. As the importance of health and physical education came to be realized, Holyoke employed the first calisthenics instructor to be employed in New England. Drawing and penmanship came in for increased emphasis. Gradually there emerged a kind of education fitted to meet the needs of the children of the community.

Just before the end of the 19th century, the high school moved into its present building on Pine Street. Education for Holyoke as we know it today began to take shape. Courses in Manual Training, fine and industrial arts, domestic arts and sciences were provided. A commercial department was established signalling the definite beginning of vocational education. Facilities were extended for athletic and physical education by the construction of the gymnasium and swimming pool. An extensive playground system was projected. The Vocational School was created to provide apprenticeship training in the skilled trades. Patrick J. Garvey founded the Evening High School which he was to direct for so many years. In recent times curriculum enrichment has come into full flower with the creation of courses in Household Economies and Homemaking, practical business training, music, dramatic arts, speech, applied science, journalism, driver education, and distributive occupations. The Holyoke High School Band founded by Fred Grady and now directed by Edward Nowak is a source of constant pride to the city.

Two nationwide movements have influenced the character of Holyoke education. One was the reorganization of school systems with reference to the creation of junior high schools for children of early adolescent age. The other was the democratization of the high school with the passage of laws compelling children to remain in school up to the age of sixteen. Both movements have had powerful results in helping the schools to serve the community. The creation of the junior high school gave to boys and girls in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades a curriculum fitted to their needs. It permitted pupils to explore along the lines of their interests and aptitudes. It laid the groundwork for preparation for life and life work. It provided

specialized teaching. The passage of the compulsory school age laws made of the high school a great peoples' school.

Today the Holyoke school system offers the most complete program of public education to be found in New England. Beginning with nursery schools and kindergarten for the very young and carrying through to a degree-granting junior college for Holyoke young men and women who seek to further their higher education in the city, this program encompasses every educative gradation needed by the peoples' children.

William R. Peck has been Superintendent of Schools in Holyoke for almost thirty-five years. He has shown power in administration, combining in rare degree capacity to envision the ideal and the practical ability to carry it out. Always he has answered the need with the offering. When it developed that crippled children could not come to school, he sent the school to them through special teachers. To give opportunity to new peoples from foreign lands he created Americanization classes, teaching self-government and instilling love for the new country. Always he thought of the individual pupil. Mentally handicapped boys and girls were given their opportunity for success. Education in Holyoke is conducted with reference to the future of America. A most important goal is high-grade citizenship.

Some of the interesting phases of present-day education are eye-saving classes, and lip reading classes, and training for speech defectives. A well equipped trade school in the country is available for boys who wish training along the line of mechanics. A practical class has been organized recently in distributive education.

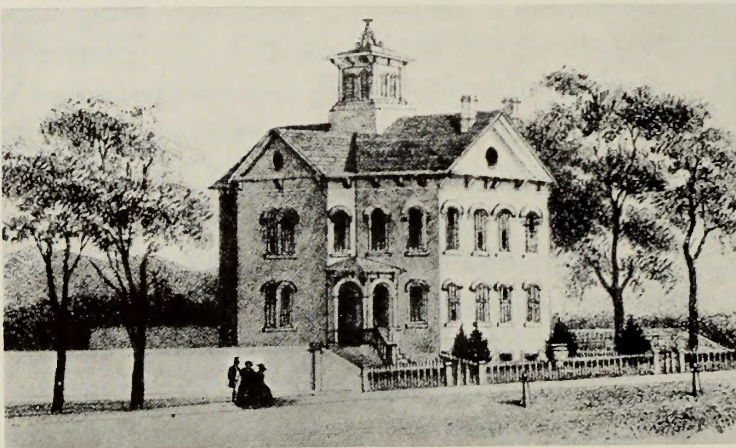
At the upper level of the Holyoke educational ladder stands Holyoke High School where for three full years the youth of Holyoke are privileged to be a part of the miracle of America, democratic secondary education. Dr. Howard Conant devoted his life to the development of this greatest of all democratic institutions. To this school come boys and girls from homes at every economic level and social scale, each with a different personality, each with a different outlook on life, differing from each other in race, creed, and color. Here they work and team together, acquiring a community of culture and the emotional heritage of a common American ideal. Here they learn beauty and truth and loyalty are ageless.

Mr. Peck has not been alone in his efforts to give Holyoke the best that is to be had in modern education. Behind him, supporting him when the going was hard, is a long line of able and unselfish citizens who have served as members of the school committee with devotion; Nathan P. Avery, J. B. Weis,

August Bausch, William Dupre. Devoted women have written their names large as teachers and administrators in the Holyoke schools; Jenny Scollay, Esther Greeley, Dr. Marcella Kelly, and Marie Weis Hazen on the Board.

But, the glory of education in Holyoke today, as it has always been, is in no small part the faithful teaching of the unsung, underpaid teachers who in an obscure and often unrecognized way keep the light of our American civilization and culture burning. Dedicated especially to them, the mural painting is a lasting memorial. In keeping with tradition, the artist has depicted himself as the serious-minded instructor of art as he might look some years hence.

THE FIRST HOLYOKE HIGH SCHOOL





ATHLETICS EDWARD P. BAGG, M.D.

When the spotlight is turned upon Athletics, it can readily be seen that no artist could do justice to the galaxy of Holyoke's sons who have excelled in many branches of sport. This forest of celebrities assuredly would be obscured by the great abundance of trees, big ones. So the mural painter must resort to allegory as Sante Graziani has done for the Holyoke Public Library in these notable examples of what has been called the highest form of art.

At first glance there appears to be a jumble of athletes, each one apparently intent upon his own specialty, yet caught in a live, rhythmic grouping in vivid, distinguishing form and color. In the background are the fields and equipment that are essential. The message is both bright and clear. Meticulous critics, however, might insist that any pole-vaulter who relied upon so slender a reed of bamboo would surely come to grief, or that football backs would collapse under helmets of such heroic mold. But would they

not thus be throttling genius who intended perhaps to win attention by arousing observation, critical or otherwise? To put it boldly, they might justly be termed captious.

Back in the good old days when men were men in spite of long underwear and the elastic gussets of their congress boots, Reuben Winchester, agent of the Holyoke Water Power Company, organized Holyoke's first professional baseball team. Graduates of local sand-lots subsequently helped to develop Holyoke's excellent playgrounds ward by ward that provide our youngsters, boys and girls too, with healthful recreation. "Dudes Park" the site of our library building was a busy place in the gay nineties. The dudes are gone long since, but boys still are boys and play impromptu games there on the restricted lawns to this day.

Many of those amateur athletes went on to professional athletic careers. Jack Doyle, the dean of Holyoke's professional baseball players, is an outstanding example. He was John J. McGraw's catcher on the original Baltimore Oriole team. At eighty he continues his active touch with baseball today as a talent scout for the Chicago Cubs. "Smiling Micky" Welch pitched for the New York Giants, and "Tommy" Tucker covered first base for the Boston National Club. Around the turn of the century, Tom Dowd was the first left-fielder of the Boston Red Sox, while Jack Hannifin played short-stop for the Giants and the Athletics. Neill Sullivan pitched himself via the Harvard Law School into a lucrative career as a corporation lawyer in Wall Street.

Then there was Jimmy Collopy a third-baseman, side-kick of Clark Griffith boss of the Senators, who started Jim "Skip" Dowd upon his meteoric pitching career that took him from Holy Cross to Pittsburgh and Cincinnati in the ten years from 1906-1916. Andy Lawrence played much professional baseball as did innkeeper Jim Barry. Mike Lynch also went to Pittsburgh after his brilliant record as a pitcher at Brown University; in fact, all the Lynch brothers including Judge Tom and Jack the schoolmaster from Williams College played better than average ball. Roy Clark and Bernie Grady joined major league clubs as did City Treasurer Joseph Lucey (Yankees and Red Sox), Bobby Munn a Giant catcher (today's head guard at the Worthington Pump), Jerry Conway (Washington Senators), Billy Gleason, Junior Probation Officer (Browns), and Francie Healey (Cardinals and Giants). Ed "Moona" Moriarty, a Holy Cross captain and sensational rookie of the late-lamented Boston Braves was more recent. He and the current Joe Conway have coached a number of championship baseball teams at the Holyoke High School.

Many more names have brought renown to the Paper City in the intervening years including the Malcolm brothers and the Shapiros. Nor should we forget Ed Hurley, an able umpire in the American League who officiated in the 1953 World Series. His son Ed has done well himself in local athletics. The very latest to make nationwide headlines is Frank Leja, Jr., the five-figure bonus baby bought by the World Champion Yankees, who finished his record-breaking career at the Holyoke High School in 1953.

The athletic prowess of the Paper City, however, was not bound up entirely with willow and horsehide. Fred Dawson was an extra good catcher to be sure, but he won greater renown in football as a Princeton quarterback who went West, Greeley-wise, to coach great teams at the University of Nebraska. Many other Holyoke names must be included in a football roster. Jim Quill the battering ram went to Yale, Dave Hooks to one of Princeton's great lines, and Ted Lyman to the football squad of the University of Pennsylvania. "Red" Walsh (H.H., 1916) and Billy Quigley were prominent figures on various gridirons hereabouts. "Moose" Bunyan and Archie Roberts won fame for themselves and their home town at New York University. The latter has continued his athletic career with distinction as head coach of Holyoke High School. "Skinny" Gardner was an all-time back for Syracuse, while Edmund Wakelin won his D at Dartmouth as a first-class lineman. But the name of Conrad Hemond stands alone as a four-year captain of Holyoke High School football teams who also won his letter in every branch of sport.

The excellent quality of Holyoke athletes is attested by the fact that Frank Boyden, unique Headmaster of Deerfield Academy, has provided scholarships for many local boys who have demonstrated more than average all-around ability. "Twit" Sheehan, now a headmaster himself (of Canterbury School), is a good case in point; another more recently is Frankie Norris who starred in athletics and scholastic standing at Amherst College. Still another is a Holyoke Rhodes scholar, Howie Burnett of all-American soccer fame who occupied John Harvard's old room at Oxford, thanks to the foresight of Cecil John Rhodes and his own outstanding interests and abilities that must of necessity include outdoor sports.

When James Naismith invented the game of basketball in 1891 as a project in psychology at the Y.M.C.A. Training School in Springfield, he did not dream that the pastime eventually would pack Madison Square Garden to the rafters, or that professional gamblers one day would go to jail for bribing players to throw games like the Chicago Black Socks did in base-

ball. But regardless of race, creed, or previous condition of servitude, Holyokers took to basketball without reservations. It was not too long before championship teams were developed and peach baskets dangled from many telephone poles throughout the city. Interest ran high and still does today in the Paper City whose teams continue to pile up enviable records.

Old-timers speak fondly of "Cappo" Marsh and the fifty-five baskets that he netted in one game at Dean Academy in the early nineteen hundreds; also of the other players on his great team, Frank Cox, Tom Davies, "Hod" Pfahler, Archie Lade, and George Reardon. But perhaps the greatest Holyoke basketball squad of them all consisted of Ray Snow, Earl Wylie, Billy Hardman, "Pete" Whiting, Jim Connell, and Roger McCorkindale. Malcolm and Feldman subsequently dominated the fore courts for a number of years. "Kisky" Feldman continued active participation in basketball as an outstanding official for more than two decades after his playing days were over. Then the Merriams took over for a period, to be followed by the athletically great and numerous Shapiro family, especially Lou, number one boy, who started the family of basketballers rolling.

Today there is more competition than ever in basketball, both locally and nationally, yes even as far as Olympic stadiums. Through the years Holyoke has won a lion's share of the trophies and keeps right on under Archie Roberts' expert tutelage.

In any account of Field and Track games, a number of Holyoke's sons deserve mention. "Billy" Schick for example once held the world's record when he carried the crimson of Harvard in the hundred yard dash, and Frank Sears burned up the cinder paths at Ithaca in the longer sprints with his magnificent stride. John James was another old-time speed merchant who may have started his running as a butter-fingered clerk in Jimmie Allen's crockery store. Dr. Fred H. Allen and Fayette Read also were good men and fast on the track both at Holyoke High School and at Amherst. The good doctor still is running around today ringing Holyoke doorbells for sick and suffering youngsters.

One of the greatest of all-around athletes in the Holyoke area during the early nineteen hundreds was James J. Skinner, Sr., who excelled in football, baseball, basketball and even more in bowling. The latter sport became his vocation for a number of years. Today he is an ivory hunter for the resurrected Baltimore Orioles in western Pennsylvania.

The height of interest in soccer football was reached during the heyday of the Farr Alpaca when teams representing the company competed with

much success in big-time competition. The Dearden brothers did much to spread the gospel of soccer among the local lads. Similarly, Principal Henry Fitzpatrick fathered ice hockey in the Holyoke High School. His son did well, but the standout on skates was Pierce "Gerry" Geran who made the U. S. Olympic squad in ice hockey.

Probably the first Holyoke woman to gain a national reputation by her achievements in sport was Joan Newton Cuneo who excelled in automobile racing toward the end of the 19th century. Mrs. Amelia Bloomer of New York had emancipated her athletic-minded sisters with her baggy modified trousers that so shocked the Victorian world. During the same period James "Soda" Sullivan, with his bride Rose Donohue, joined up with Forepaugh & Sells' Circus as acrobats. Three of the daughters of Holyoke's first young man who dared to fly on a high trapeze, Rose, Eileen and Edna, won national and international acclaim by their athletic exploits as the Flying Harolds with Ringling Brothers', Cole's and Beatty's circus shows among others. Bernice Maxfield became a record-breaker in the standing and running broad jumps at Mount Holyoke College. Likewise, Connie Mahoney, daughter of Surgeon Stephen A. Mahoney, was captain of the swimming team at Smith. The latter still puts in long hours coaching girl scout teams. Millie Snow caught the basketball fever from her brothers and Charlotte Chase won renown similarly before retiring to the Adirondacks to teach kindergartners. In point of fact, the participation of local girl athletes was limited for the most part to basketball and swimming. However, a major outlet for exuberance has been provided by cheerleading, drum majoring, including baton twirling and band work in general. Because of his unusually fine work in the last named specialty, director Edward Nowak should receive special mention. The musical excellence and expert marching manoeuvres of his pupils have won many awards in top-flight competition.

The recent coalescence should be noted of teams of the various Holyoke parishes into one Catholic High School team insofar as competitive sports are concerned. Don Herlihy of Cathedral and Holy Cross antecedents was chosen coach. He is functioning with increasing success year by year, and doubtless will win rewarding championships before long and add the names of winning athletes to Holyoke's impressive record book.

Daniel J. Fitzgerald, book-specialist, might be mentioned as a long-distance heel and toe artist (hiker to you!) and Dick Underdorf as a cyclist of note who brought blue ribbons and fame to the Holyoke Turn Verein. The Turners always have excelled in gymnastic competition as well.

As to coaching, the names of Holyoke mentors should be added to any list of candidates for immortality before finishing the story of local athletics. Without their valued services, our records would have lost not a little luster. One of the pioneer physical trainers was Larry Dowd, brother of Tom. But when Billy Peek's student dream came true, and the new gym for Holyoke High was dedicated in 1914 with his help and that of Horace, able Dan Kelly, graduate of Springfield Y.M.C.A. College, late Superintendent of Physical Education for the State of Massachusetts, was chosen to be the first full-time coach of our athletes.

"Dotty" Whalen was the next Springfield graduate to direct the destinies of local teams. He in turn was followed by Billy Sullivan who had starred at Dean Academy. Then the present successful incumbent, Archie Roberts, left his graduate duties as coach of New York University freshmen to return to his home town. As a result, Holyoke High School stand-outs have gone from his well-drilled squads to Yale, Harvard, Princeton and many other leading schools in the country.

"Dannie" Regan who died in 1953, was a faithful well-loved overseer of the general welfare of a long succession of Holyoke athletes. They owed much to Dan's guidance and care. His integrity and perfect sportsmanship were potent influences in shaping youthful character.

Finally apologies must go to many deserving persons who gave their all for Holyoke but, perforce, must be omitted from this limited history. Coincidentally but no less needfully, thanks must be rendered for help and advice to Jim Dowd, Conrad Hemond and many others who have helped this mis-cast left guard of the antediluvian 1902 class football team of the Holyoke High School to compile and substantiate the details of the story.

